

MRS. CAUDLE'S CURTAIN LECTURES.

Continued from our last issue. THE THIRTY-FOURTH LECTURE.

MRS. CAUDLE, SUSPECTING THAT MR. CAUDLE HAS MADE HIS WILL, IS "ONLY ANXIOUS AS A WIFE" TO KNOW ITS PROVISIONS.

"I always said you'd a strong mind when you liked, Caudle; and what you've just been doing proves it. Some people won't make a will, because they think they must die directly afterwards. Now, you're above that, love, ar'n't you? Nonsense; you know very well what I mean. I know your will's made, for Seratchery told me so. What? You don't believe it? Well, I'm sure! That's a pretty thing for a man to say to his wife. I know he's too much a man of business to talk; but I suppose there's a way of telling things without speaking them. And when I put the question to him, lawyer as he is, he hadn't the face to deny it.

"To be sure, it can be of no consequence to me whether your will is made or not. I shall not be alive, Mr. Caudle, to want anything; I shall be provided for a long time before your will's of any use. No, Mr. Caudle; I shan't survive you; and—though a woman's wrong to let her affection for a man be known, for then she's always taken advantage of—though I know it's foolish and weak to say so, still I don't want to survive you. How should I? No, no; don't say that! I'm not good for a hundred—I shan't see you out, and another husband too. What a gross idea, Caudle! To imagine I'd ever think of marrying again. No—never! What? That's what we all say? Not at all; quite the reverse. To me the very idea of such a thing is horrible, and always was. Yes, I know very well that some do marry again—but what they're made of, I'm sure I can't tell.—Ugh!

"There are men, I know, who leave their property in such a way that their widows, to hold it, must keep widows. Now if there is anything in the world that is mean and small, it is that. Don't you think so, too, Caudle? Why don't you speak, love? That's so like you! I never want a little quiet, rational talk, but you want to go to sleep. But you never were like any other man! What? How do I know? There now—that's so like you aggravating way. I never open my lips upon a subject but you try to put me off. I've no doubt when Miss Prettyman speaks, you can answer her as well as I can. There you are again! Upon my life, it is odd; but I never can in the most innocent way mention that person's name that—Why can't I leave her alone? I'm sure I—with all my heart! Who wants to talk about her? I don't; only you always will say something that's certain to bring up her name.

"What was I saying, Caudle? Oh, about the way some men bind their widows. To my mind, there is nothing so little. When a man forbids his wife to marry again without losing what he calls her 'dowry,' what is that but a death sentence? Mean to do that? It's like taking his wife into the grave with him. Eh? You never want to do that? No, I'm sure of that, love; you're not the man to tie a woman up in that manner. A man who'd do that, would have his widow burnt with him, if he could—just as those monsters, that call themselves men, do in the Indies.

"However, it's no matter to me, you've made your will; but it may be to your second wife. What? I shall never give you a chance? Hn! you don't know my constitution? Well, I'm sure of it; and I know you better than I know myself. Well, all I ask is, love, because it's only for your sake, and it would make no difference to me then—how should it?—but all I ask is, don't marry Miss Pret—There! I've done; I won't say another word about it; but all I ask is, don't. After the way you've been thought of, and after the comforts you've been used to, Caudle, she won't be the wife for you. Of course, I could then have no interest in the matter—you might marry the Queen of England, and I wouldn't care a fig for it. I'm not anxious about you. Mind, Caudle, I'm not saying anything against her; not at all; but there's a flightiness in her manner—I dare say, poor thing, she means no harm, and it may be, as the saying is, only her manner after all—still, there is a flightiness about her that, after what you've been used to, would make you very wretched. Now, if I may boast of anything, Caudle, it is my property of manner the whole of my life. I know that wives who're very particular ar'n't thought as well of as those who're not—still, it's next to nothing to be virtuous, if people don't seem so. And virtue, Caudle—no, I'm not going to preach about virtue, for I never do. No; and I don't go about with my virtue, like a child with a drum, making all sorts of noises with it. But I know your principles. I shall never forget what I once heard you say to Prettyman; and it's no excuse that you'd taken so much wine you didn't know what you were saying at the time; for wine brings out men's wickedness. What do you say? Why you said this—'Virtue's a beautiful thing in women, when they don't make so much noise about it; but there's some women who think virtue was given 'em, as claws were given to cats'—yes, cats was the word—to do nothing but scratch with.' That's what you said. You never said it? That's nothing to do with it—you're just as good as said it. No; when a man leaves all his property to his wife, without binding her hands from marrying again, he shows what a dependence he has upon her love. He proves to all the world what a wife she's been to him; and how after his death he knows she'll grieve for him. And then, of course, a second marriage never enters her head. But when she only keeps his money so long as she keeps a widow, why, she's aggravated to take another husband. I'm sure of it; many a poor woman has been driven into wedlock again only because she was agitated into it by her husband's will. It is spiritual to suppose it. If I thought, Caudle, you could do such a thing, though it would break my heart to do it—yet, though you were dead and gone, I'd show you I'd a spirit, and marry again directly. Not but what it's ridiculous my talking in such a way, as I shall go long before you; still, mark my words, and don't provoke me with any will of that sort, or I'd do it—as I'm a living woman in this bed to-night, I'd do it."

"I did not contradict her," says Caudle, "but suffered her to slumber in such assurance."

THE THIRTY-FIFTH LECTURE.

MRS. CAUDLE "HAS BEEN TOLD" THAT CAUDLE HAS "TAKEN TO PLAY" AT BILLIARDS.

"You're very late to-night, dear. It's not late? Well, then it isn't, that's all. Of course, a woman can never tell her husband. You were late on Tuesday, too; a little late on the Friday before; on the Wednesday before that—now, you needn't twist about in that manner; I'm not going to say anything—no; for I see it's no use no use. Once, I own, it used to fret me when you stayed out; but that's all over; you've now brought me to that state, Caudle—and it's your own fault, entirely—no; I don't care whether you ever come home or not. I never thought I could be brought to think so little of you; but you've done it; you've been treading on the worm for those twenty years, and it's turned at last.

"Now, I'm not going to quarrel; that's all over; I don't feel enough for you to quarrel with—I don't, Caudle, as true as I'm in this bed. All I want of you is—any other man would speak to his wife, and not lie there like a log—all I want is this. Just tell me where you were on Tuesday? You were not at dear mother's, then? You know she's not well, and you know she thinks of leaving the dear children her money; but you never had any feeling for anybody belonging to me. And you were not at the Club; no, I know that. And you were not at any theatre. How do I know? Ha, Mr. Caudle! I only wish I didn't know. No, you were not at any of these places, but know well enough where you were. Then why do I ask if I know? That's it; just to prove what a hypocrite you are; just to show you that you can't deceive me.

"So, Mr. Caudle, you've turned billiard-player, sir. Only once? That's quite enough; you might as well play a thousand times; for you're a lost man, Caudle. Only once, indeed! I wonder, if I was to say 'Only once,' what would you say to me? But, of course, a man can do no wrong in anything.

"And you're a lord of the creation, Mr. Caudle; and you can stay away from the comforts of your blessed fireside, and the society of your own wife and children—though, to be sure, you never thought anything of them—to push ivory balls about with a long stick upon a green table-cloth. What pleasure any man can take in such stuff must astonish any sensible woman. I pity you, Caudle!

"And you can go and do nothing but make 'cannons' for that's the gibberish they talk at billiards—when there's the manly and athletic game of cribbage, as my grandmother used to call it, at your own hearth. You can go into a billiard-room—you, a respectable tradesman, or as you set yourself up for one, for, if the world knew all, there's very little respectability in you—you can go and play billiards with a set of creatures in moustachios, when you might as well take your hand with me at home. But no; anything but cribbage with your own wife.

"Caudle, it's all over now; you've gone to destruction. I never knew a man enter a billiard-room that he wasn't lost forever. There was my uncle Wardle; a better man never broke the bread of life; he took to billiards, and he did not live with aunt a month afterwards. A lucky fellow? And that's what you call a man who leaves his wife—a 'lucky fellow'! To be sure, what can I expect? We shall not be together long now; it's been some time coming, but, at last, we must separate—and the wife I've been to you!

"But I know who it is; it's that fiend, Prettyman. I will call him a fiend, and I'm by no means a foolish woman; you'd no more have thought of billiards than a goose if it hadn't been for him. Now it's no use, Caudle, your telling me that you've only been once, and that you can't hit a ball anyhow—you'll soon get over all that; and that you'll never be at home. You'll be a marked man, Caudle; yes, marked. There'll be something about you that'll be dreadful; for I couldn't tell a billiard-player by his looks I've no eyes, that's all. They all of 'em look as yellow as parchment, and wear moustachios. I suppose you'll let yours grow now; though they'll be a good deal troubled to come, I know that. Yes, they're all a yellow and sly look, just for all as if they were first-cousins to people that picket rockets. And that'll be your case, Caudle; in six months the dear children won't know their own father.

"Well, if I know myself at all, I could have borne anything but billiards. The companions you'll find! The Captains that will be always borrowing fifty pounds of you! I tell you, Caudle, a billiard-room's a place where rain of all sorts is made easy. I may say, to the lowest understanding—so you can't miss it. It's a chapel of ease for the devil to preach in—don't tell me that, Mr. Caudle; I don't know what you mean, Mr. Caudle; and I shall just as soon expect it. But I never can open my lips—and I can't, often, goodness knows—that I'm not insulted.

AUCTION SALES.

PHILIP FORD, Auctioneer. M. C. LELAND & CO. Auctioneers. SALE OF 1600 CASES BOOTS, SHOES, BROGANS, ETC. On Thursday Morning, March 28, at 10 o'clock, by catalogue, for cash, 1600 cases men's, boys' and youth's calf, kip, kangaroo, and buff Boots, Shoes, Brogans, Halmorats, Slippers, etc.

JOHN B. MYERS & CO., AUCTIONEERS No. 232 and 244 MARKET STREET. LARGE POSITIVE SALE OF BRITISH, FRENCH, GERMAN AND DOMESTIC DRY GOODS. We will hold a large sale of Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, by catalogue, on four months' credit and part for cash, on Thursday morning.

LARGE POSITIVE SALE OF CARPETS, ETC. On Thursday Morning, March 29, at 11 o'clock, will be sold by catalogue, on four months' credit, about 200 pieces royal danmark, velvet, superfine, and fine Ingrain, Dutch bouillé, tulle, collars, and rug carpets, etc., embracing a choice assortment of goods, which will be examined early on the morning of sale.

LARGE PRELIMINARY SALE OF FRENCH AND OTHER EUROPEAN DRY GOODS, ETC. On Monday Morning, April 10, at 10 o'clock, will be sold by catalogue, on four months' credit, about 800 lots of French, India, German, and English goods, including a full assortment of ladies' and staple articles in silks, worsteds, woollens, linens, and cottons, etc.

POINCAST & WARNOCK, AUCTIONEERS No. 240 MARKET STREET. SHERIFF'S SALE. POSITIVE SALE OF THE STOCK, GOOD-WILL, FIXTURES, AND LEASE OF A CITY RETAIL DRY-GOODS STORE, by order of the sheriff.

LUMBER. 1867.—SELECT WHITE PINE BOARDS CHOICE PINE AND SPRUCE, 10 to 15 feet long, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 inch wide.

1867.—CEDAR AND CYPRESS SHINGLES. CEDAR AND CYPRESS SHINGLES. SHORT CEDAR SHINGLES. FINE ASSORTMENT FOR SALE LOW. NO. 1 CEDAR LOGS AND POSTS.

F. H. WILLIAMS, LUMBER MERCHANT, SEVENTEENTH AND SPRING GARDEN STREETS OFFERS A SUPERIOR STOCK OF BUILDING LUMBER AND HARD WOODS.

J. C. PERKINS, LUMBER MERCHANT, Successor to R. Clark, Jr., No. 24 CHRISTIAN STREET. Certificates on hand, a large and varied assortment Building Lumber.

LOST. ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS REWARD! LOST, between Walnut Street Wharf and the American Hotel, in Chestnut street, on Monday evening, March 14, between 8 and 9 o'clock, a large black enameled leather.

AMERICAN LEAD PENCIL COMPANY, NEW YORK. Factory, Hudson City, N. J. Wholesale Salesroom, No. 34 JOHN Street, N. Y.

AMERICAN LEAD PENCIL CO., N. Y. All styles and grades of Lead Pencils of superior quality are manufactured, and offered at fair terms to the Trade. The public are invited to give the AMERICAN LEAD PENCIL the preference.

TESTIMONIAL SHEFFIELD SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL. ENGINEER DEPARTMENT, YALE COLLEGE, November 16, 1886. I have always recommended the FABER polygraph lead pencils as the only pencils that will receive an unusual and mathematical drawing but after a thorough trial of the AMERICAN LEAD PENCIL FABER PENCIL CO., N. Y., I find them superior to any pencil in use, even to the FABER of the English School.

DRURY WELLS—OWNERS OF PROPERTY. The only place to get Drury Wells cleaned & disinfected at very low prices. A. FEYRON, Manufacturer of Pondrette, 810 GEDDING'S HALL, LIBRARY STREET.

AUCTION SALES.

SAMUEL C. FORD & SONS, AUCTIONEERS No. 127 S. FOURTH STREET. Sales of Real Estate, Stocks, Loans, etc., at Philadelphia Exchange, every Friday at 12 o'clock, noon. Our sales are advertised in all the daily and several of the weekly newspapers by separate handbills of each property, and by pamphlet catalogue, one thousand copies of which will be issued on Wednesday preceding each sale.

STOCKS, LOANS, ETC. Friday, March 28, at 10 o'clock, noon, at the Philadelphia Exchange, by separate handbills of each property, and by pamphlet catalogue, one thousand copies of which will be issued on Wednesday preceding each sale.

REAL ESTATE SALE, MARCH 28. HANDSOME MODERN RESIDENCE, No. 1506 North Thirtieth Street, above Jefferson, lot 13 feet 8 inches by 100 feet.

BY FURNESS, BRINLEY & CO., No. 615 CHESTNUT STREET and No. 612 JAYNE STREET. C. C. MACKAY, AUCTIONEER Office No. 421 COMMERCE STREET. MILLINERY, TRIMMINGS, ETC.

M. BERNHEIM, Having reopened the Store No. 145 N. EIGHTH STREET, Will continue his old business.

SPLENDID OPENING OF THE LATEST STYLES.—MRS. M. A. BINDER, Importer of Ladies' Dress and Cloak Trimmings. Also, an elegant stock of the latest styles of hats, bonnets, etc.

MRS. R. DILLON, Nos. 223 and 331 SOUTH STREET. Has a handsome assortment of MILLINERY, Also, Silk Velvet, Crapes, Ribbons, Feathers, Flowers, Frames, etc.

ENGINES, MACHINERY, ETC. PENN STEAM ENGINE AND TRACTOR WORKS.—NEAFIE & LEVY, Practical and Theoretical Engineers.

PROPOSALS. PROPOSALS FOR CAST-IRON SERVICE PIPE, IRON AND BRASS CASTINGS, AND LEAD. Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Engineer, No. 210 South Fifth Street, until TUESDAY, April 2, 1887.

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STEAKS, WHITNEY & BRIDGES, No. 327 CHESTNUT STREET, Manufacturers of CAST-IRON WATER AND STEAM PIPE. Of all sizes; also fittings for the same, at the lowest prices.

GOVERNMENT SALES. SALE OF OLD AND UNSERVICEABLE ARTICLES OF ORDNANCE. BUREAU OF ORDNANCE, NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, MARCH 15, 1887.

PHILADELPHIA SURGEON BANDAGE INSTITUTE, No. 12 N. SIXTH STREET, above Market. E. EVERETT, President. The Institute guarantees the skillful adjustment of its Premium Gum Bandaging Dressing, Fringe, and a variety of Surgical Supporters, Elastic Stockings, Shoulder Braces, Crutches, Suspensives, etc.

AUCTION SALES.

BY J. M. GUMMEY & SONS, AUCTIONEERS, No. 508 WALNUT STREET. Hold Regular Sales of REAL ESTATE, STOCKS, AND SECURITIES AT THE PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE.

SALE ON MONDAY, APRIL 1, will include—One share Mercantile Library Company. One share No. 141 Church of the Holy Trinity. ELEGANT BROWN STONE RESIDENCE, 25 feet front, with French roof and three-story double bay.

SALE OF VALUABLE EUROPEAN OIL PAINTS.—On Thursday and Friday Evenings, March 28 and 29, at 7 1/2 o'clock, at Art Gallery, No. 110 Chestnut Street, will be sold a collection of choice Paintings, selected by the artist, by Tolmie, Esq., of Boston.

SCOTT, JR., AUCTIONEER, No. 1020 CHESTNUT STREET. AUCTION SALES OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE. B. SCOTT, JR., will give his personal attention to sales of household furniture, at the residence of parties removing or breaking up housekeeping, on the most favorable terms.

SALE OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN BOOKS IN THE Various Departments of Literature also, Bibles, Prayer-Books, Photographs, Albums, Juvenile Works, etc.

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AUCTION SALES.

BY THOMAS BIRCH & SON, No. 1110 CHESTNUT STREET, above Eleventh Street. Sale at No. 1110 Chestnut Street, on Thursday Morning, March 28, at 10 o'clock, at No. 1110 Chestnut Street (Division Street in front north of Calowhill Street), will be sold the furniture of a family removing, including, comprising parlor, chamber, and kitchen furniture.

NEW AND SECOND-HAND HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, PIANO-FORTE, MIRRORS, CARPETS, BEDDING, PLATED-WARE, CHINA, ETC., ETC. Sale at No. 1110 Chestnut Street, on Friday Morning, March 29, at 10 o'clock, at the Auction Store, No. 1110 Chestnut Street, will be sold a large assortment of parlor, chamber, and dining-room furniture, from families desiring housekeeping.

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